

33. (*Unamended*) An optical WDM network comprising at least two nodes interconnected by a bidirectional optical link, at least one of the nodes comprising:

at least two pairs of ordinary optical transmitters and ordinary optical receivers, each pair comprising an ordinary optical transmitter receiving electrical signals and converting the received electrical signals to optical signals and issuing the optical signals to another node and an ordinary optical receiver receiving optical signals from the other node and converting the received optical signals to electrical signals, and

spare optical transmitters, one spare optical transmitter arranged together with an ordinary optical transmitter in a pair, the spare optical transmitter and the ordinary optical transmitter of a pair receiving the same electrical signals and converting the received electrical signals to optical signals and the spare optical transmitter arranged to issue the optical signals to the other node, if the ordinary optical transmitter fails.